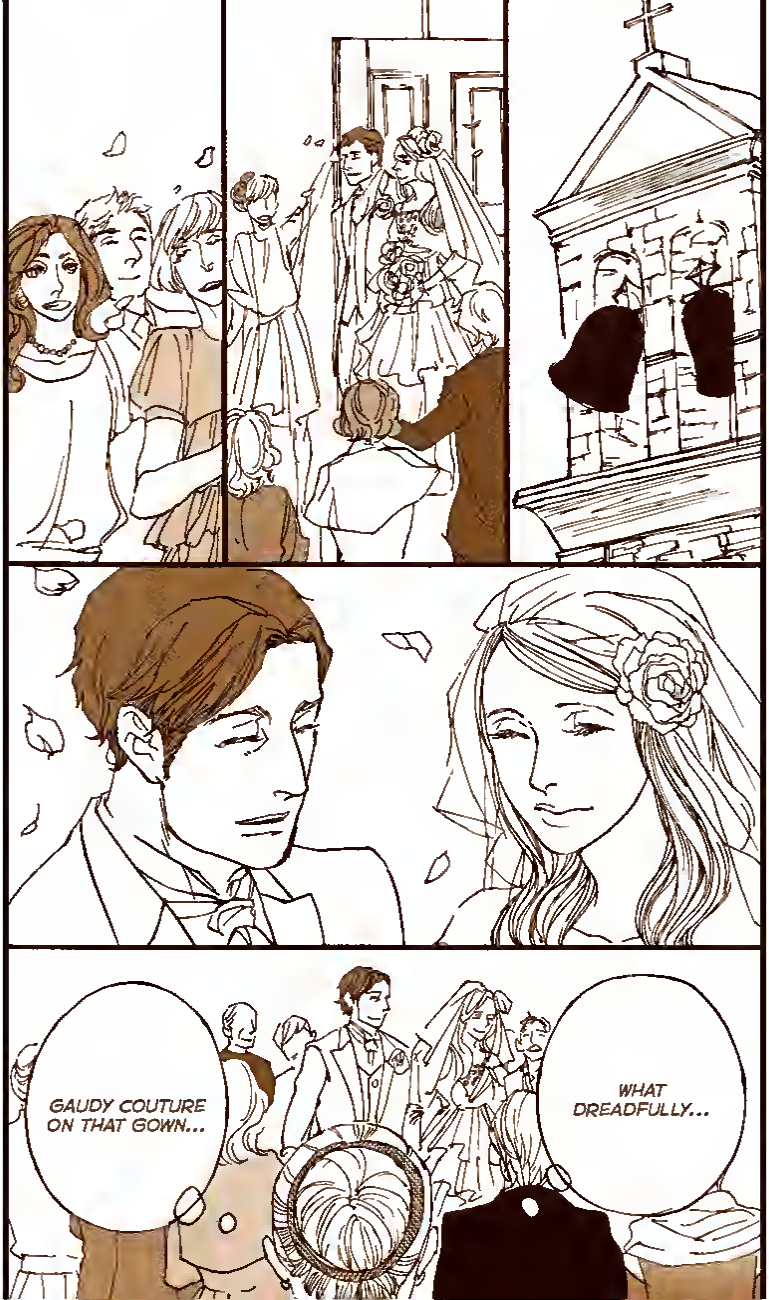
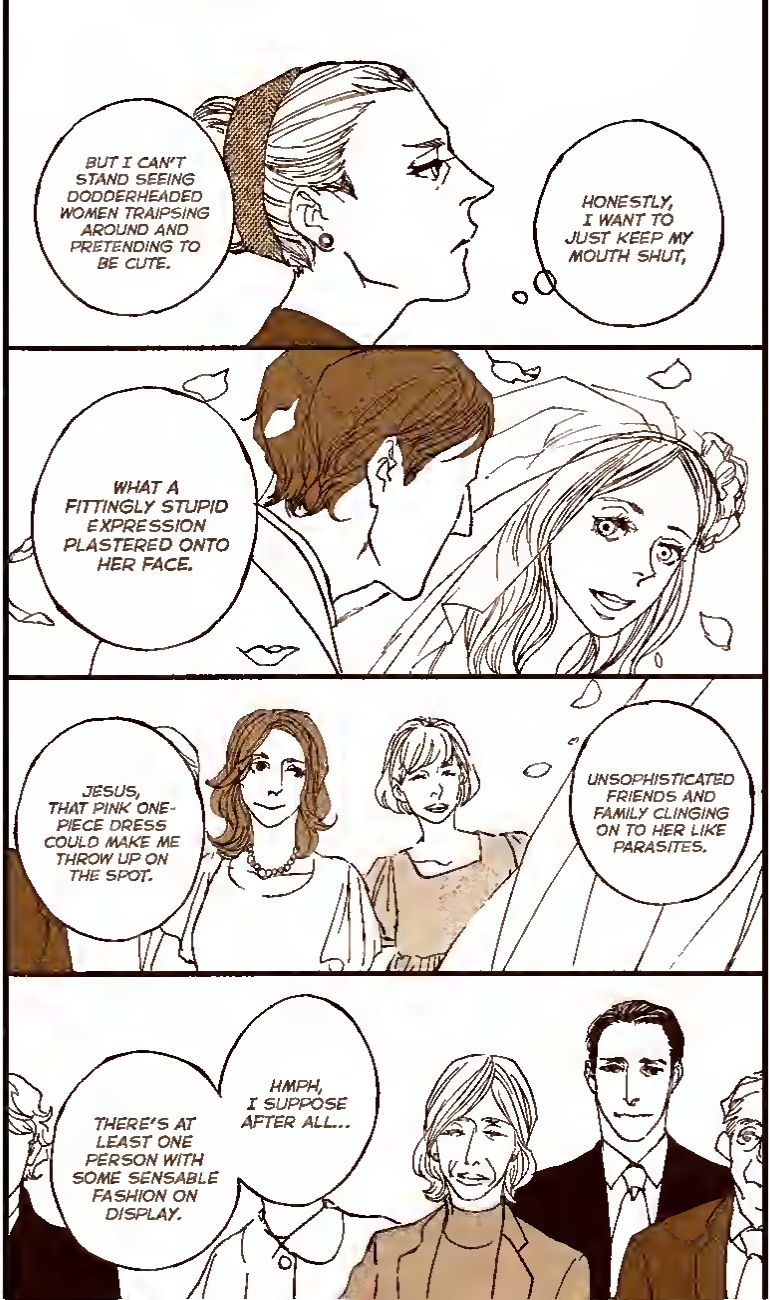
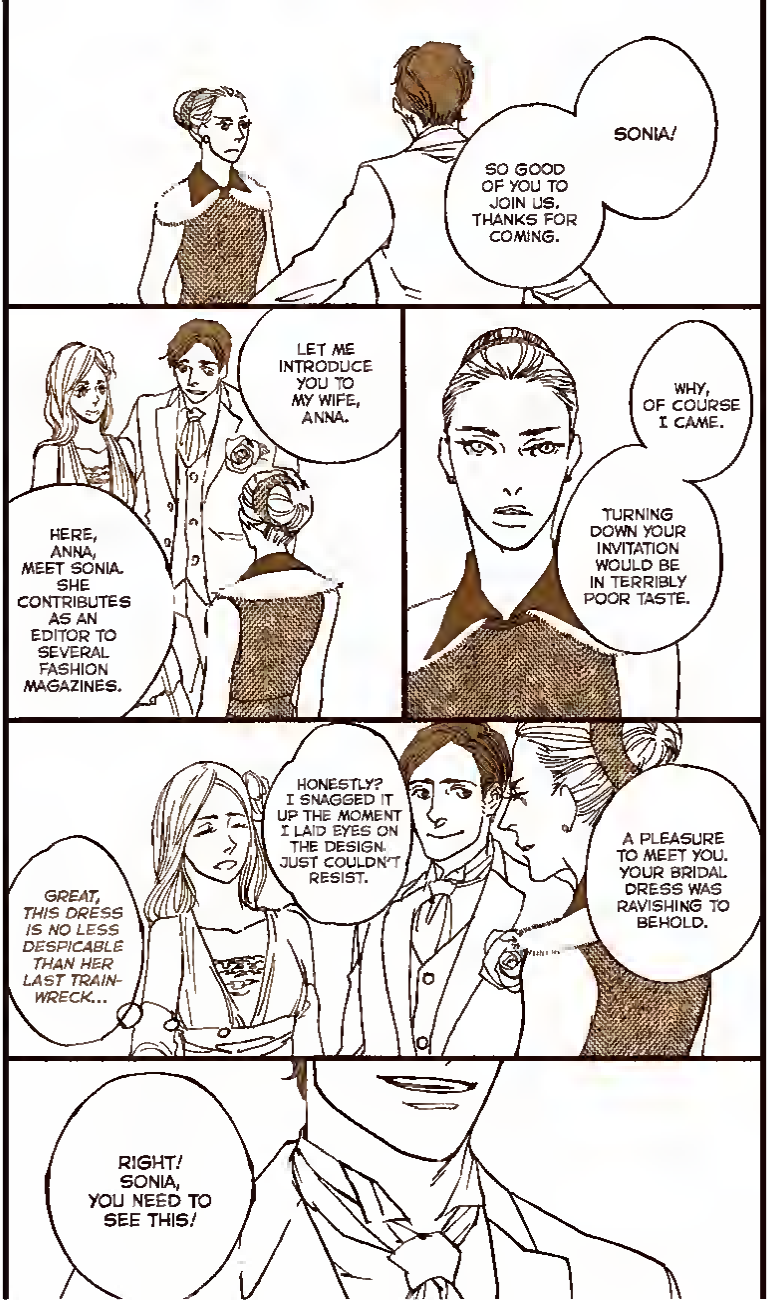
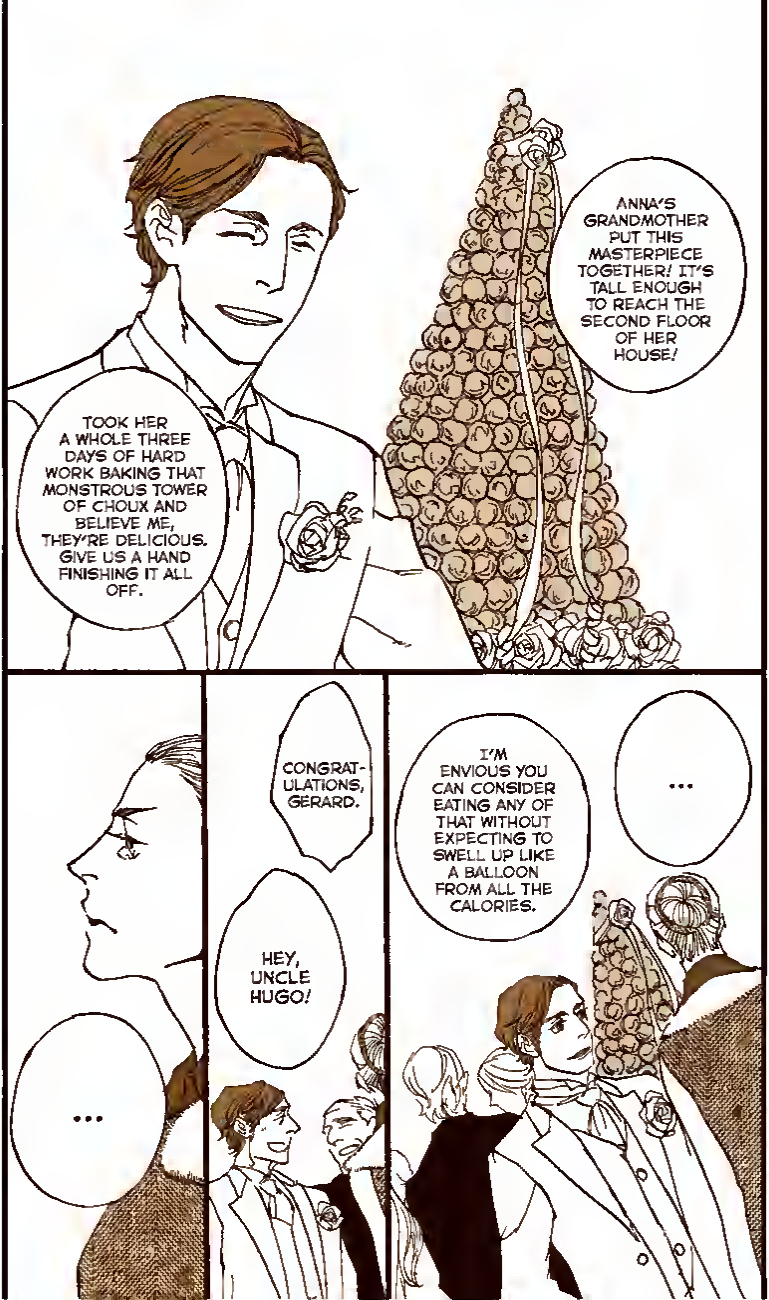
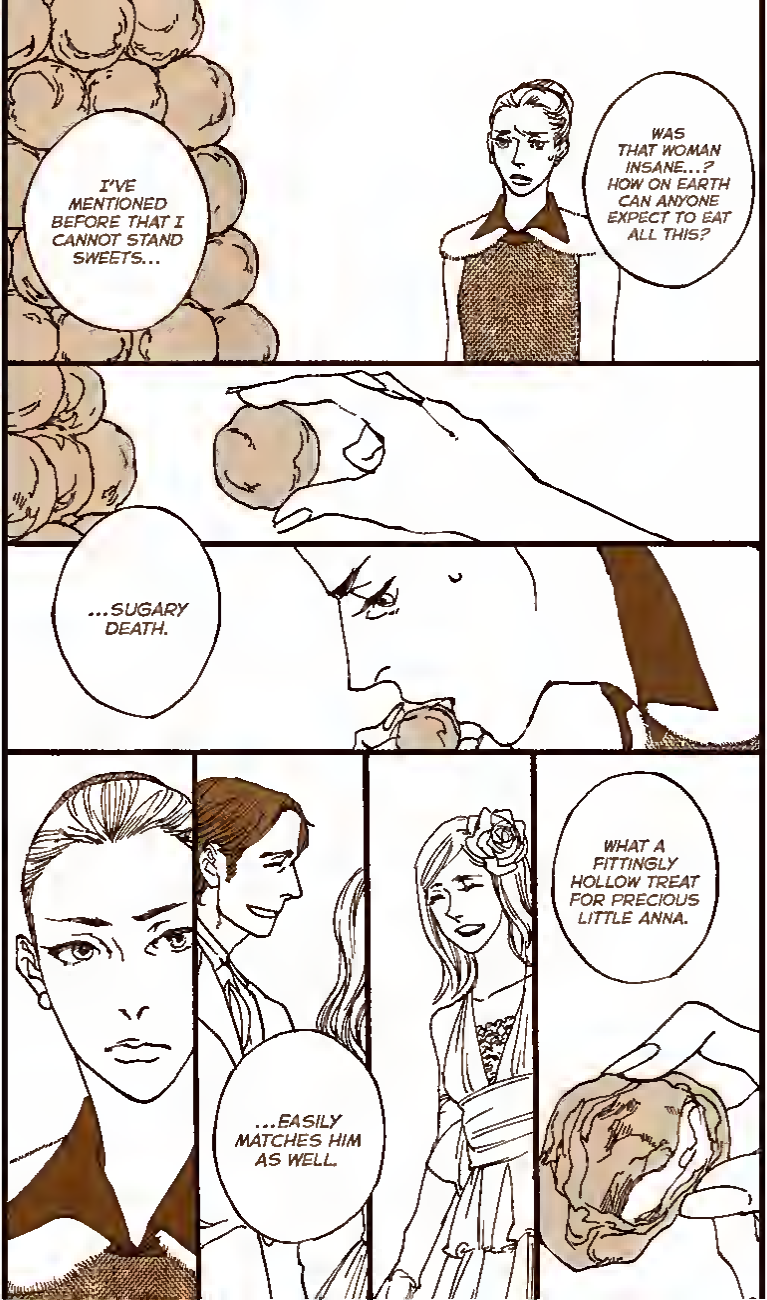
3 croque en bouche

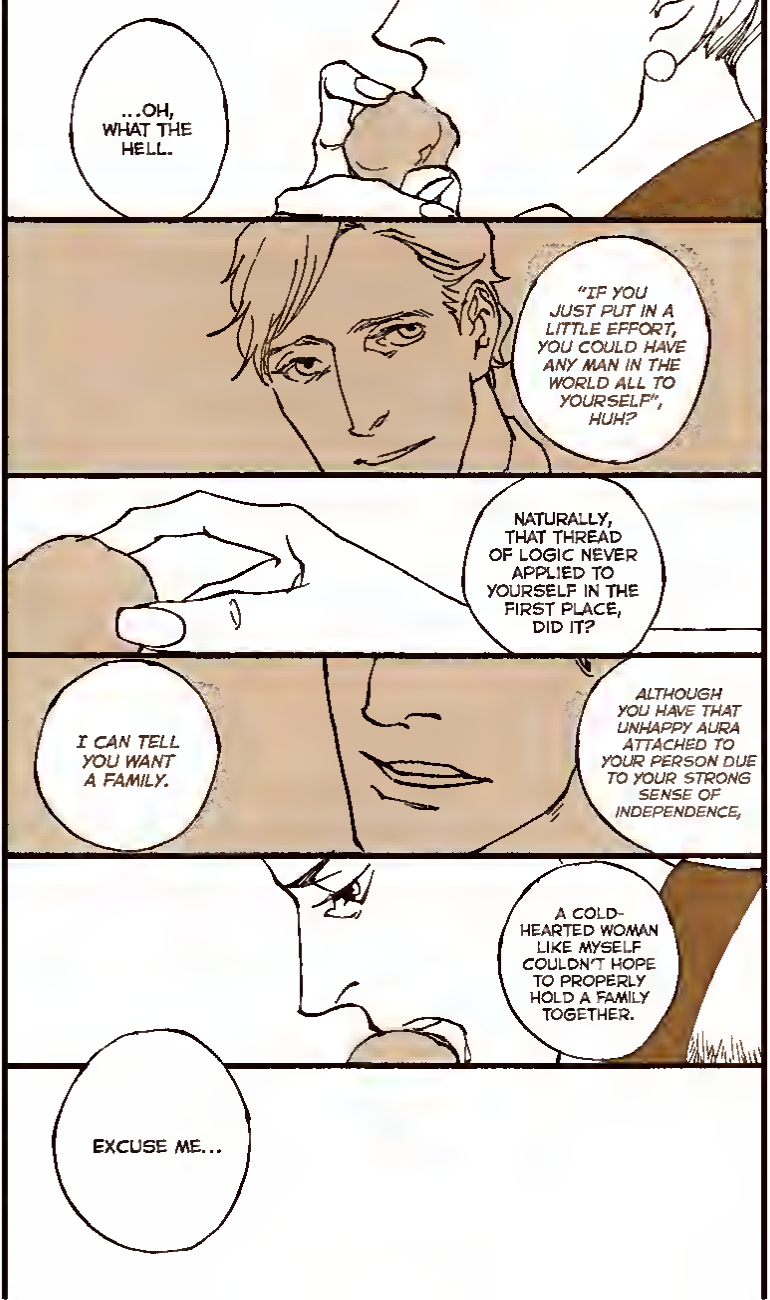

GAUDY COUTURE ON THAT GOWN...
WHAT DREADFULLY...

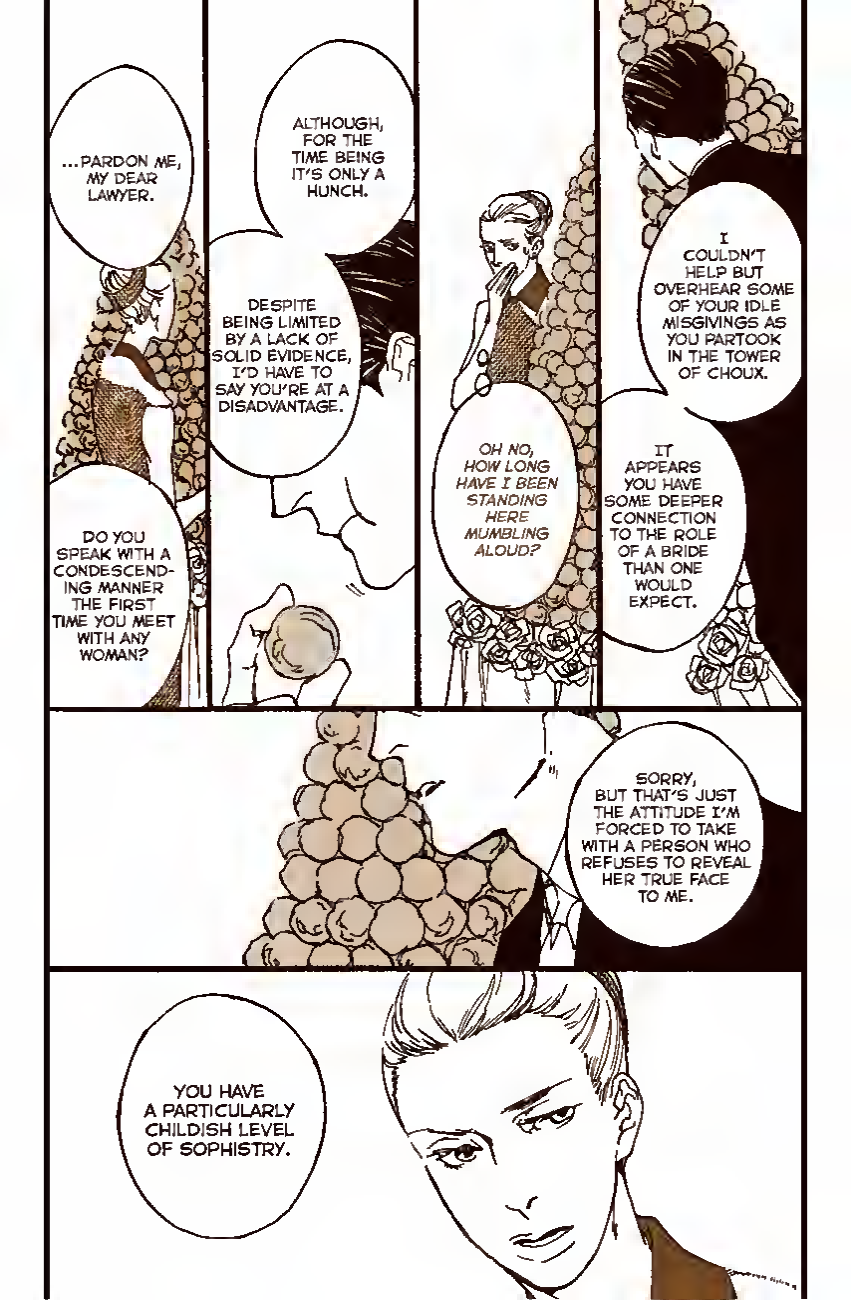

BUT I CAN'T STAND SEEING DODDERHEADED WOMEN TRAIPSING AROUND AND PRETENDING TO BE CUTE.
HONESTLY, I WANT TO JUST KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT,
WHAT A FITTINGLY STUPID EXPRESSION PLASTERED ONTO HER FACE.
JESUS, THAT PINK ONE-PIECE DRESS COULD MAKE ME THROW UP ON THE SPOT.
UNSOPHISTICATED FRIENDS AND FAMILY CLINGING ON TO HER LIKE PARASITES.
THERE'S AT LEAST ONE PERSON WITH SOME SENSABLE FASHION ON DISPLAY.
HMPH, I SUPPOSE AFTER ALL...

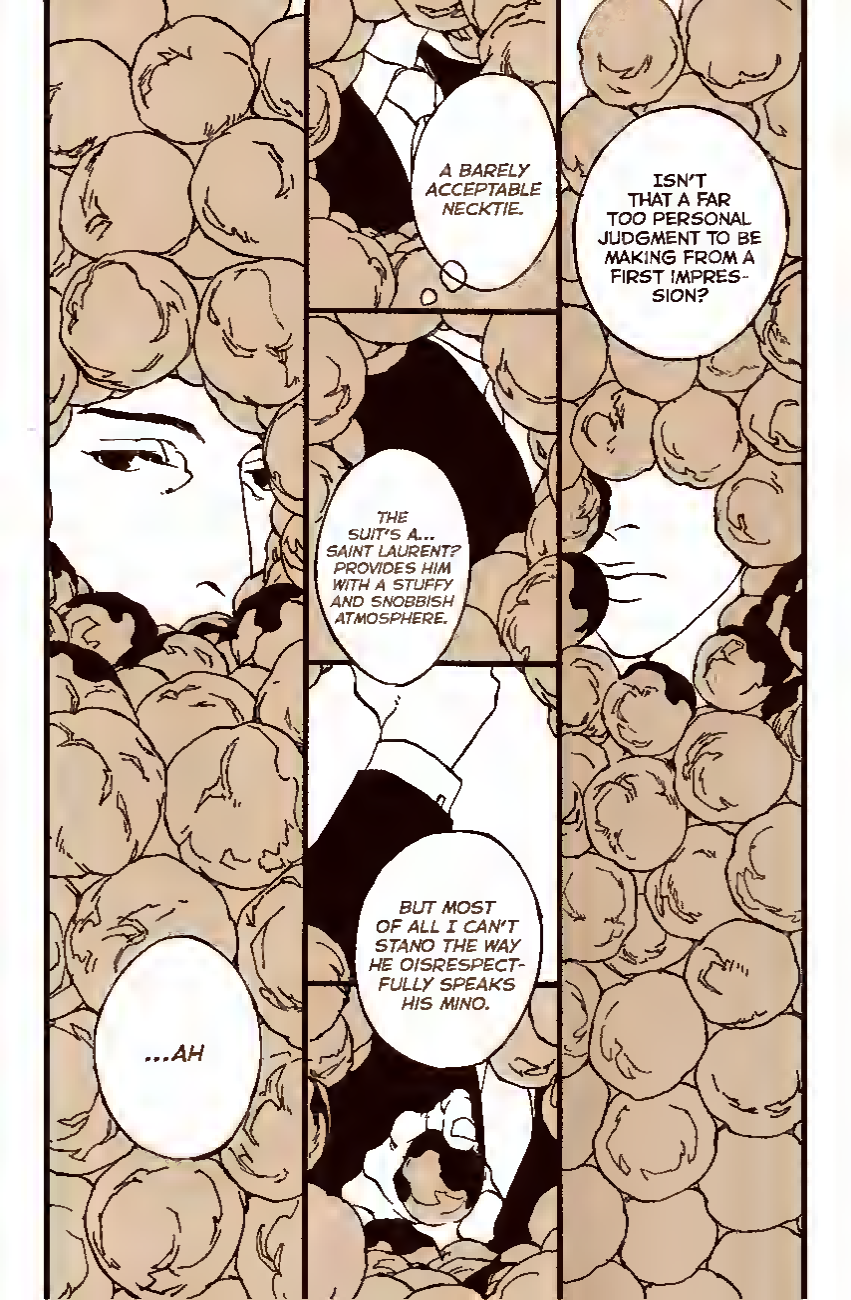

SONIA!
SO GOOD OF YOU TO JOIN US. THANKS FOR COMING.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO MY WIFE, ANNA.
HERE, ANNA, MEET SONIA. SHE CONTRIBUTES AS AN EDITOR TO SEVERAL FASHION MAGAZINES.
WHY, OF COURSE I CAME.
TURNING DOWN YOUR INVITATION WOULD BE IN TERRIBLY POOR TASTE.
A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU. YOUR BRIDAL DRESS WAS RAVISHING TO BEHOLD.
HONESTLY? I SNAGGED IT UP THE MOMENT I LAID EYES ON THE DESIGN. JUST COULDN'T RESIST.
GREAT, THIS DRESS IS NO LESS DESPICABLE THAN HER LAST TRAIN-WRECK...
RIGHT! SONIA, YOU NEED TO SEE THIS!


ANNA'S GRANDMOTHER PUT THIS MASTERPIECE TOGETHER! IT'S TALL ENOUGH TO REACH THE SECOND FLOOR OF HER HOUSE!
TOOK HER A WHOLE THREE DAYS OF HARD WORK BAKING THAT MONSTROUS TOWER OF CHOUX AND BELIEVE ME, THEY'RE DELICIOUS. GIVE US A HAND FINISHING IT ALL OFF.
...
I'M ENVIOUS YOU CAN CONSIDER EATING ANY OF THAT WITHOUT EXPECTING TO SWELL UP LIKE A BALLOON FROM ALL THE CALORIES.
CONGRAT-ULATIONS, GERARD.
HEY, UNCLE HUGO!
...

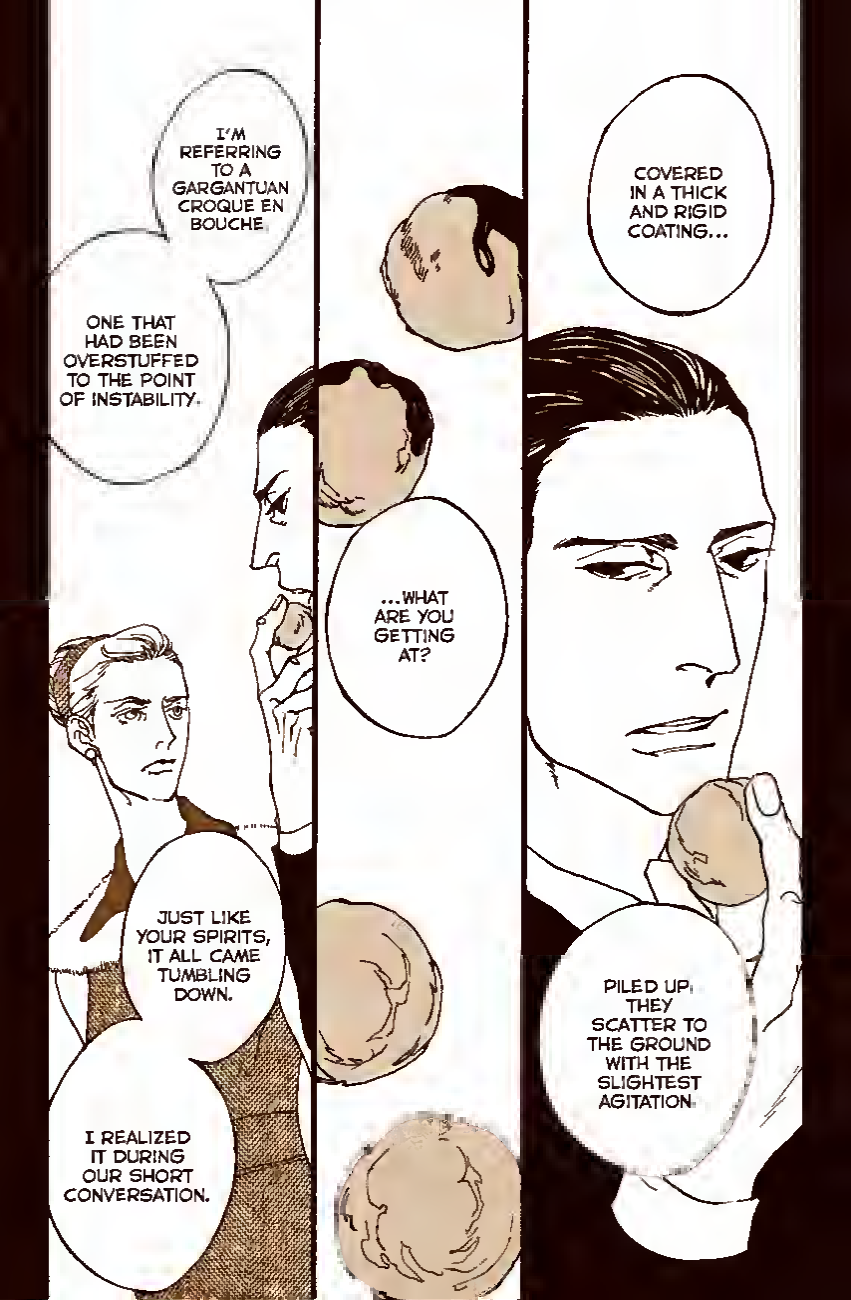

I'VE MENTIONED BEFORE THAT I CANNOT STAND SWEETS...
WAS THAT WOMAN INSANE...? HOW ON EARTH CAN ANYONE EXPECT TO EAT ALL THIS?
...SUGARY DEATH.
...EASILY MATCHES HIM AS WELL.
WHAT A FITTINGLY HOLLOW TREAT FOR PRECIOUS LITTLE ANNA.


...OH, WHAT THE HELL..
"IF YOU JUST PUT IN A LITTLE EFFORT, YOU COULD HAVE ANY MAN IN THE WORLD ALL TO YOURSELF", HUH?
NATURALLY, THAT THREAD OF LOGIC NEVER APPLIED TO YOURSELF IN THE FIRST PLACE, DID IT?
I CAN TELL YOU WANT A FAMILY.
ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE THAT UNHAPPY AURA ATTACHED TO YOUR PERSON DUE TO YOUR STRONG SENSE OF INDEPENDENCE,
A COLD-HEARTED WOMAN LIKE MYSELF COULDN'T HOPE TO PROPERLY HOLD A FAMILY TOGETHER.
EXCUSE ME...

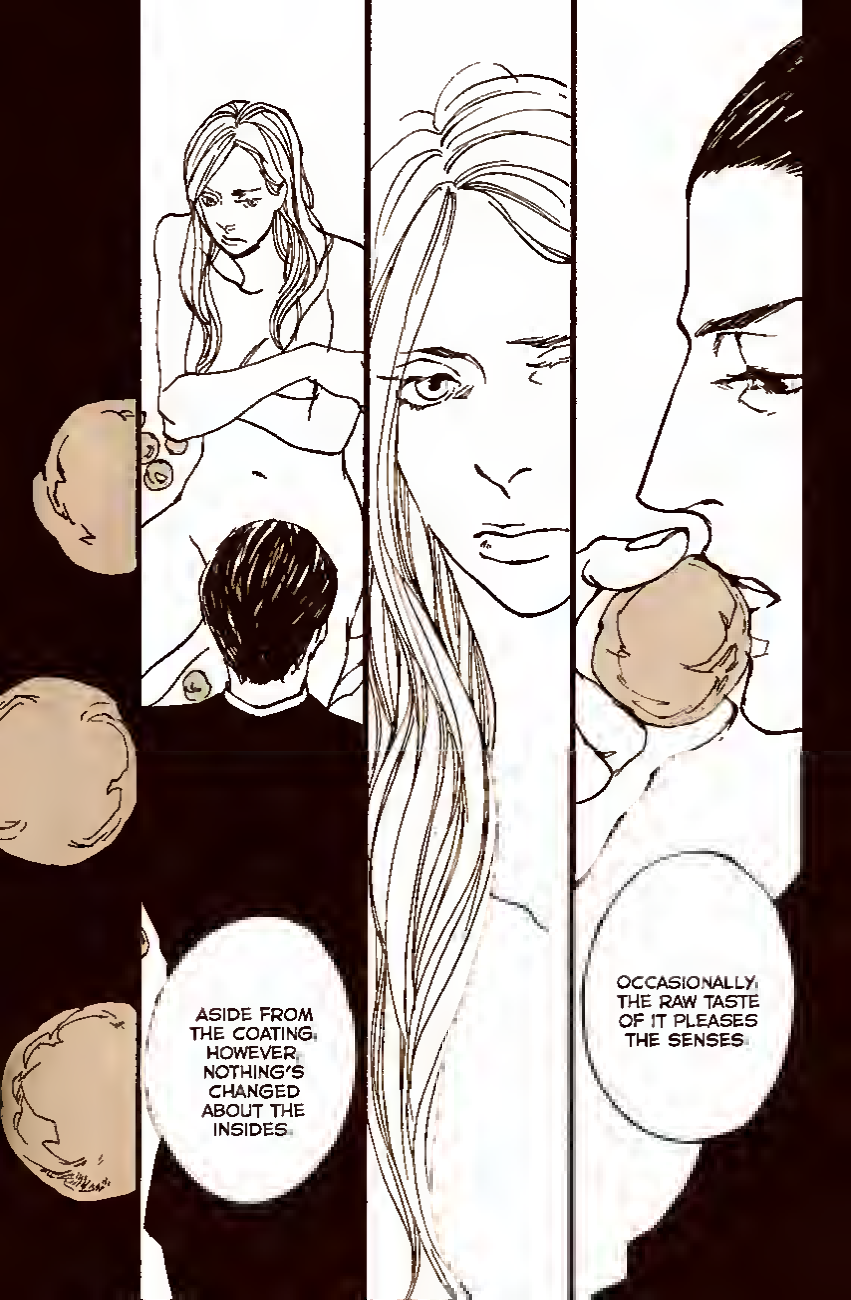

...PARDON ME, MY DEAR LAWYER.
DO YOU SPEAK WITH A CONDESCENDING MANNER THE FIRST TIME YOU MEET WITH ANY WOMAN?
ALTHOUGH, FOR THE TIME BEING IT'S ONLY A HUNCH.
DESPITE BEING LIMITED BY A LACK OF SOLID EVIDENCE, I'D HAVE TO SAY YOU'RE AT A DISADVANTAGE.
OH NO, HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN STANDING HERE MUMBLING ALOUD?
I COULDN'T HELP BUT OVERHEAR SOME OF YOUR IDLE MISGIVINGS AS YOU PARTOOK IN THE TOWER OF CHOUX.
IT APPEARS YOU HAVE SOME DEEPER CONNECTION TO THE ROLE OF A BRIDE THAN ONE WOULD EXPECT.
SORRY, BUT THAT'S JUST THE ATTITUDE I'M FORCED TO TAKE WITH A PERSON WHO REFUSES TO REVEAL HER TRUE FACE TO ME.
YOU HAVE A PARTICULARLY CHILDISH LEVEL OF SOPHISTRY.

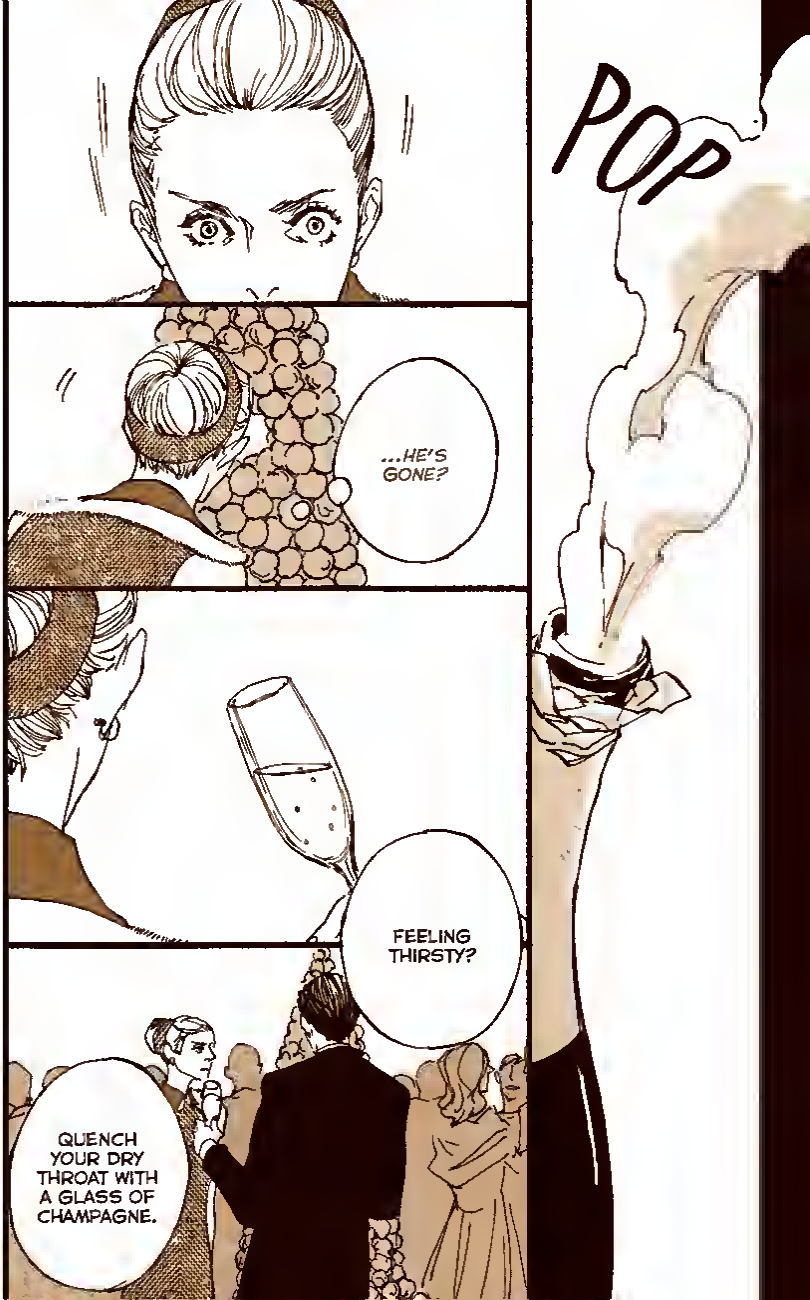

A BARELY ACCEPTABLE NECKTIE.
ISN'T THAT A FAR TOO PERSONAL JUDGMENT TO BE MAKING FROM A FIRST IMPRESSION?
THE SUIT'S A... SAINT LAURENT? PROVIDES HIM WITH A STUFFY AND SNOBBISH ATMOSPHERE.
BUT MOST OF ALL I CAN'T STAND THE WAY HE DISRESPECTFULLY SPEAKS HIS MIND.
...AH

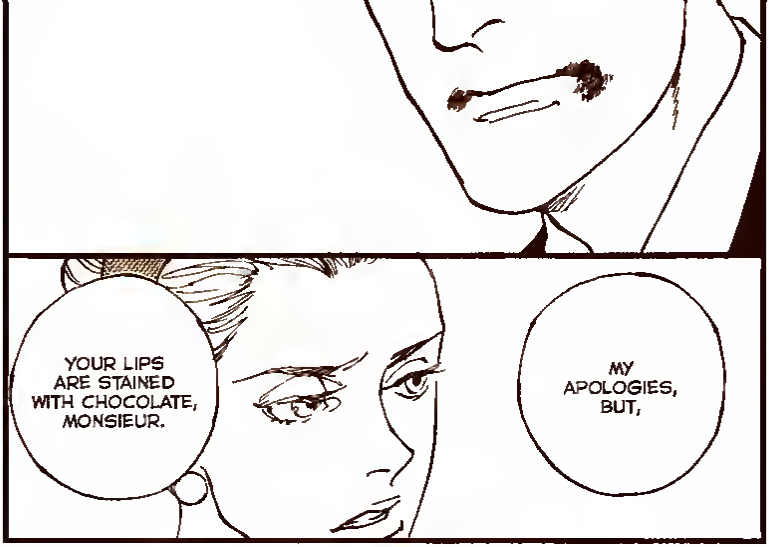
ALTHOUGH IT MAY HAVE SEEMED LIKE A SIMPLE MISUNDERSTANDING AT THE TIME, I HAD COMPLETELY ABANDONED MYSELF.
A BRIDE WOULD NATURALLY FALL TO THE GROUND IN DEVESTATION UPON THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF REJECTION BY HER GROOM AFTER BEING PLACED ON SUCH A PEDASTAL
TERRIFIC FASHION SENSE COMES WITH THE JOB. NATURALLY, ASSEMBLING AN APPROPRIATE OUTFIT IS NOTHING SPECIAL.
I MUST SAY, YOU'VE ADORNED YOURSELF IN SOME PARTICULARLY WONDERFUL CLOTHING EXPENSIVE, BUT CERTAINLY FOLLOWS THE SEASON'S TRENDS.
WOMEN ALWAYS NEED A REASON, WHILE MEN CAN GET AWAY WITH ANYTHYING THEY PLEASE WHILE HALF-ASSING IT.
LINING YOU UP WITH THE GROOM, IT SEEMS THAT DESPITE STARTING ON EVEN TERMS, YOU FEEL OBLIGATED TO STAND OUT BY OVEREXERTING YOURSELF.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THE CHOUX INSTEAD?


I'M REFERRING TO A GARGANTUAN CROQUE EN BOUCHE.
ONE THAT HAD BEEN OVERSTUFFED TO THE POINT OF INSTABILITY.
...WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?
JUST LIKE YOUR SPIRITS, IT ALL CAME TUMBLING DOWN.
I REALIZED IT DURING OUR SHORT CONVERSATION.
COVERED IN A THICK AND RIGID COATING...
PILED UP, THEY SCATTER TO THE GROUND WITH THE SLIGHTEST AGITATION.

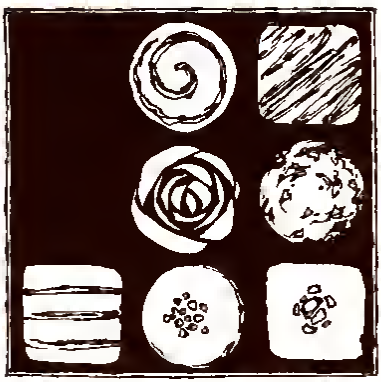
THE EVERYDAY COATING PEOPLE ADORN THEMSELVES WITH, AS IF THEY WERE LITTLE PIECES OF CHOCOLATE AND CANDY, CAUSES YOU TO LEAP BACK.
ULTIMATELY, IT DEEPLY OFFENDS YOU... THEREFORE,
AT THE HEART OF IT ALL LIES THE FLAVOR OF THE CHOUX.
SOMETHING OUT THERE WITHOUT THE MISLEADING COATING OF A CHOUX PASTRY.
...WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'VE BEEN LONGING AFTER FOR SO LONG?


ASIDE FROM THE COATING, HOWEVER, NOTHING'S CHANGED ABOUT THE INSIDES.
OCCASIONALLY, THE RAW TASTE OF IT PLEASES THE SENSES.


POP
...HE'S GONE?
FEELING THIRSTY?
QUENCH YOUR DRY THROAT WITH A GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE.


YOUR LIPS ARE STAINED WITH CHOCOLATE, MONSIEUR.
MY APOLOGIES, BUT,

PEOPLE SHOULD ENJOY WHAT THEY LOVE WITHOUT ANY SLIGHT FORM OF RESTRAINT.



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Une histoire d'un amateur de friandises

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